

Application No.: 10/630,518  
Response to Final Office Action of 4/17/06

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Docket No.: 532792001100

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### CLAIMS

Claims 1-7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method of preventing floral organ loss in a plant, comprising: mutating the ARF GAP domain of a *NEVERSHED* gene in said plant, wherein said *NEVERSHED* gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein said mutating comprises exposing said plant to ethyl methanesulphonate (EMS).

Claim 11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein said mutating results in said *NEVERSHED* gene expressing a protein that is not full-length.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein said mutating results in said *NEVERSHED* gene expressing an inactive protein.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 8, wherein said mutating introduces a stop codon into said *NEVERSHED* gene.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 8, further comprising determining if said mutation results in prevention of floral organ loss in said plant.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 10, further comprising determining if said mutation results in prevention of floral organ loss in said plant.

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Claim 18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 12, further comprising determining if said mutation results in prevention of floral organ loss in said plant.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 13, further comprising determining if said mutation results in prevention of floral organ loss in said plant.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The method of Claim 14, further comprising determining if said mutation results in prevention of floral organ loss in said plant.

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